



# THE NEW JERSEY ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

PILOT CURRICULUM PROGRAM 2004-2005

*Italian Heritage Curriculum: "The Universality of Italian Heritage"*



## Unit One: History & Society "Understanding Stream-of-Consciousness through Leonardo da Vinci's principle of *Curiosità* "

### Purpose

Students will be able to:

1. enhance their writing skills through the use of vocabulary, and through stream-of-consciousness.
2. discuss what they know and incorporate this knowledge into their writing.
3. analyze the concept of *Curiosità* on the life and work of da Vinci and apply it to their own lives.

### Key Terms

Curiosità	Italian	Curiosity
Inter alia	Latin	Among other things
Uomo Universale	Italian	Universal Man

### Lesson Theme

The *Uomo Universale* was the ideal of the time: a "Universal Man," or "Renaissance man." The *Uomo Universale* is someone who knows everything, can do everything, and can be everything. No one embodies this ideal better than Leonardo da Vinci, his insatiable curiosity and his thirst for knowledge. Leonardo da Vinci was a multitalented savant. He was an artist; yet furthermore, he was also an inventor, a researcher, a scientist, an architect, and an engineer.

Leonardo da Vinci based his accomplishments on seven guiding principles. Each principle represents a different theme. One of Leonardo's seven principles is: *Curiosità* -- An insatiably curious approach to life and an unrelenting quest for continuous learning.

### Activities

*Curiosità*, which is that inner desire to learn, is the basic principle of da Vincian practice. Students will see how a strong focus can develop the desire to learn?

- I. Students will complete a self-assessment checklist. This will tell them how they are already using *Curiosità*, and where there is room for improvement.
  - A. Self-Assessment: *Curiosità*. Check where applicable.
- B. Students will rate themselves on *Curiosità* from 1-10:
- II. Ask students who do they know best embodies the principle of *Curiosità*?
  - A. Instruct students to write freely for two minutes about that person and why that person embodies the principle.
  - B. Then, ask students to discuss their writing with the class.

**NOT FOR REPRODUCTION OR USE WITHOUT PERMISSION**

- III. Give each student a copy of da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* at: <http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/vinci/p-vinci7.htm>, or put up a poster, or use the overhead.
  - A. Remind students of the five senses: taste, touch, smell, hearing, and sight.
  - B. Each student will use the stream-of-consciousness technique to write for five minutes, without stopping and without lifting the pen from the paper, using the *Mona Lisa* and the five senses as a guide.
    - 1. Guided question-- Where is she? What time of day is it? How old is she? How do you know? What is she thinking or feeling? Why did she pose?